

*[English]***Facing of Resource Gap**

161. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is facing a resource gap of Rs. 75,000 crore for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Commission about the available resources and also which are likely to fall short of; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) According to the latest assessment of the Planning Commission, there would be no resource gap in financing the Public Sector Plan of Rs. 875 thousand crore, indicated in the "Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)" approved by the National Development Council.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Community Health Guide

162. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any project under Village Health Guides Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Village Health Guides are being provided only Rs. 50/- per month and no medicine is given to them. and

(d) if so, the reason therefor and the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is Village Health Guide Scheme.

(b) Under the Scheme a volunteer is selected to serve the community on voluntary basis and is being paid a honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month through the State Government. The criteria for selection of the volunteer are that he/she should have had basic education upto 6th class and preference is to be given to the retired defence personnel if available. He/she is not supposed to consider his/her role as a source of income or as a step towards future employment under the Govt.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An experts committee has been set up to look into the various aspects of the Village Health Guide Scheme.

Child Labour

163. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY :
SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :
SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to make the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act more stringent and effective; and

(b) the number of instance in which action was taken for violation of the pact during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In the wake of the judgement dated the 10th December, 1996 of the Supreme Court and the Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisaging elimination of child labour in all its forms, the issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to make it more stringent and effective, was discussed in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1997. Important suggestions made in the Conference to make the Act more stringent include (a) making the offence a cognizable one; (b) making the penalties more stringent and deterrent; and (c) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. The proposal to amend the Act accordingly is currently under consideration.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[Translation]***Scam in CGHS Dispensary**

164. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any government agency has investigated any scam in CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries particularly at North Avenue, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of enquiries carried out since January, 1996 till date;

(c) the outcome of said enquiries; and